



# USAID | UKRAINE

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## SPECIAL INITIATIVES



Photo by A. Fedortsiv

Olena Roshke, a foster mom with the Parents House Charitable Foundation, Kyiv

### THE CHALLENGE

As a post Soviet country that has witnessed dramatic economic decline until recently, Ukraine faces several unique challenges.

For example: 1) Almost 30% of Ukraine's population still lives below the poverty line; 2) limited economic opportunities lead men and women to look for work abroad, which puts them in contact with slave traffickers; 3) an estimated 100,000 children live outside of family care; 4) Avian Flu has become a global threat with Ukraine a major poultry producer and migratory point for wild fowl, and 5) Ukraine is among the largest and most wasteful users of energy resources, which increases the cost of doing business and reduces profits.

### OVERVIEW

USAID special initiatives involve areas in which the US government is partnering with Ukraine to confront specific challenges. USAID special initiatives concentrate on: 1) fighting trafficking in persons; 2) addressing issues that involve orphans & vulnerable children; 3) fighting Avian Flu; and 4) developing professional human capacity and strengthening social institutions through visitor exchange programs; and 5) stimulating energy efficiency efforts among large corporate energy consumers.

### OUR PROGRAMS

#### Counter Trafficking in Persons:

Countering Trafficking in Persons initiative is a part of the broader US Government effort to address criminal trade in human beings. The initiative aims to reduce TIP in Ukraine by increasing awareness of TIP among governmental and community leaders, service providers and the general public; informing and motivating risk groups, primarily women and children between the ages of 12 and 25 years, on how to protect themselves; assisting victims and ensuring their rehabilitation.

#### Orphans & Vulnerable Children, and Mother and Infant Health:

An estimated 100,000 children in Ukraine live outside of family care. While the majority of these children are in state institutions, including orphanages, boarding schools and shelters, many struggle to survive on the streets. These programs aim to promote family care models for vulnerable children, including HIV-affected children, and to improve maternal and child health services.

#### Community Connections:

This program supports visitor exchanges to develop hands-on practical internships for business persons, NGO leaders, environmentalists, educators, medical workers and local government officials.

#### Avian Flu:

Now a global threat, USAID supports efforts to control AV outbreaks within the bird population through improved sanitation and awareness among the citizenry.

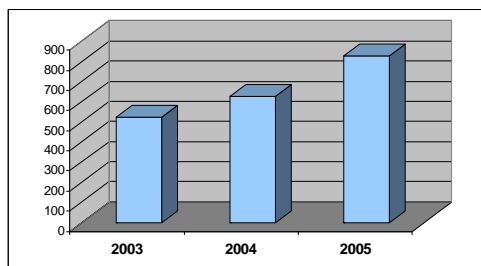
#### Industrial Energy Efficiency Initiative:

This is a new program to provide assistance and solutions for low-cost financing to selected industrial energy consumers to improve energy efficiency and reduce the country's dependence on energy imports.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Increase awareness of Trafficking In Persons ;
- Assist TIP victims and ensure their rehabilitation;
- Establish effective networks for the early identification of pregnant HIV-positive women;
- Develop a comprehensive system of family support through social, medical and psychosocial patronage of the mothers and families of HIV-affected children;
- Prevent abandonment of infected newborns.
- Develop awareness about Avian Flu nationally and in high risk populations and develop community mobilization activities;
- Provide essential equipment and supplies to fight and contain Avian Flu.
- Monitor and contain suspected Avian Flu cases.
- Provide energy audits and access to capital to stimulate large energy consumers to conserve resources.

### Victims of trafficking assisted by Ukrainian NGOs (in selected regions)



## Implementing Partners

**Trafficking in Persons:**  
International Organization for Migration

**Orphans & Vulnerable Children, and Mother and Infant Health:**  
Holt International, John Snow, Inc.

**Community Connections:** Project Harmony (World Learning).

**Avian Flu:** Center for Ukrainian Reform Education, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health  
**Energy Efficiency:** International Resource Group

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Counter Trafficking in Persons

- IOM has provided direct assistance, i.e. medical, psychological, legal, educational grants, vocational trainings, etc. to 677 victims of trafficking under this project; 60% of whom were trafficked for sexual exploitation, 34% for labor exploitation and 6% for mixed forms.
- To date, 51 NGO projects were initiated. This includes 4 university projects, 2 religious-based project and 5 projects with trade unions.
- In cooperation with Ukrainian Red Cross Society, 603 lectures in 9 oblasts were held for 18,818 persons.
- IOM partner NGOs have conducted 680 lectures plus additional 100 trafficking prevention lectures on the volunteer basis in four oblasts of Ukraine.
- Educational materials, including a new video film "Destination Point – Life" have been presented to 26 oblasts; 845 copies of the film have been distributed and 8,000 more copies are to be distributed to schools of Ukraine.
- 139 volunteers from 20 oblasts were trained for volunteer work in countering trafficking under the Peer-to-Peer *Ray of Hope* Project up to date.
- 22 Advisory Boards to Regional Coordinating Councils on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons met in 17 oblasts of Ukraine.

### Avian Flu

- Procured and delivered of \$180,000 in laboratory reagents and testing equipment along with personal protective gear;
- Printed and distributed over 60,000 copies of 5 different AI information flyers and 12,000 copies posters;
- Aired 3 different radio public service announcements (PSA) and 3 television PSA reaching at least 10,000,000 people, as well as numerous longer radio and television information programs;
- Supported 250 AI related meetings at national, oblast and rayon levels;
- Trained 2,500 national and regional journalists, resulting in the publication of nearly 100 different articles in many national and regional newspapers;
- Trained over 600 national and regional health, veterinary, government and civil society leaders about AI prevention.

### Orphans & Vulnerable Children

- 9 community groups were established
- 596 children and 474 families received psychosocial support services through FCP grant program
- Practical guidelines on foster care were developed by the FCP Child Welfare Task Force, reviewed by the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports and recommended for piloting in the FCP project sites
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, FCP trained 92 regional trainers on foster care who by now trained 220 prospective foster parents.
- 185 children born to HIV+ mothers stayed in their biological families, and 49 cases of social abandonment were prevented

**For more information, please contact USAID/Ukraine Development Outreach & Communications, tel. (380 44) 537 4600 or visit <http://ukraine.usaid.gov>**